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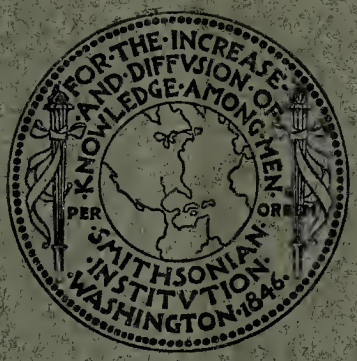
Fifty-third Annual Report

of the

UREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY

1935–1936



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON
D. C.

FIFTY-THIRD
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

1935–1936

UNITED STATES
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FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY

M. W. Stirling, Chief

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report on the field researches, office work, and other operations of the Bureau of American Ethnology during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1936, conducted in accordance with the act of Congress of February 2, 1935. The act referred to contains the following item:

> American ethnology: For continuing ethnological researches among the American Indians and the natives of Hawaii, the excavation and preservation of archeologic remains under the direction of the Smithsonian Institution, including necessary employees, the preparation of manuscripts, drawings, and illustrations, the purchase of books and periodicals, and traveling expenses, $58,730.00.

SYSTEMATIC RESEARCHES

At the beginning of the fiscal year M. W. Stirling, Chief of the Bureau, was in southern Florida for the purpose of locating archeological sites which it was anticipated would be excavated later in the year with relief labor. Mr. Stirling returned to Washington the latter part of July. In December two Works Progress Administration archeological projects having been approved on request of the Florida State Archaeological Survey in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. Stirling again went to Florida in order to consult with Works Progress Administration officials and supervise the establishing of the projects in Hillsborough and Dade Counties. He returned to Washington December 22. During the visit of a Blackfeet Indian delegation to Washington in the month of March 1936 opportunity was taken to make further checks and modifications on the sign language material of the late Gen. Hugh L. Scott.

Dr. John R. Swanton, ethnologist, devoted the greater part of his time during the first half of the fiscal year to the arrangement of the Timucua linguistic material under stems. Further material was added to his large paper on the Indians of the Southeast. On December 26, 1935, Dr. Swanton was appointed by the President a member of a commission of seven "to study and report to the next session of Congress its recommendations for a suitable celebration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the expedition of Hernando de Soto."

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A later act of Congress extends the time within which the report may be made to January 2, 1939. Since this appointment was made, the activities of the Commission have absorbed a great deal of his time, involving as they do the promotion of research in foreign depositories of manuscripts, particularly those of Spain, the translation of Spanish works, and especially a study and determination, as far as that is possible, of the route taken by the great explorer and his successor, Moscoso, through territories now covered by 10 States of the Union. This involves the use of library materials and direct study in the field. At the request of the other members of the Commission, Dr. Swanton acted in the capacity of temporary chairman in arranging the first meeting, March 5 to 7, in the Smithsonian Building. At this meeting Dr. Swanton accepted the permanent chairmanship of the Commission, with the understanding, however, that he was to serve only until the factual report is made. A second meeting was held at Tampa, Fla., on May 4 to 6. After this was over, he accompanied Col. J. R. Fordyce, vice-chairman of the Commission, in an investigation of parts of the route of De Soto between Florida and Mississippi, and May 30 to June 18 he made a second expedition to examine that section between South Carolina and the Mississippi River.

During the year an interesting and ethnologically important letter bearing on the Indians of Florida was brought to Dr. Swanton's attention by Dr. Lucy L. Wenhold, of Salem College, Winston-Salem, N. C. A negative photostat of this document is also in the possession of the Florida State Historical Society, which has kindly loaned the use of it in making a positive copy, and this is being prepared for publication in the Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections with annotations by Dr. Swanton and Dr. Wenhold.

On July 3, 1935, Dr. Truman Michelson, ethnologist, started on an expedition to the region of James and Hudson Bays, made possible by a subvention from the American Council of Learned Societies. The object was to make a linguistic map of this area. He spent some weeks at Moose Factory, about 10 days at the Great Whale River, a little over 2 weeks at Fort George, and a day at Rupert's House, and returned to Washington September 20. Besides getting data from the Indians and Eskimos of these places, he was able to get in contact with one Indian from the East Main River, one Cree from Wenusk, on the west side of Hudson Bay, one Cree from the Albany River, who had also been at Attawapiskat, and one Ojibwa from the Albany River. Data from some of the more remote localities were obtained by indirect means. His observations indicate that the folklore and mythology of these northern tribes are far closer to those of the Central Algonquian tribes than is usually thought.

On June 5, under a new grant from the American Council of Learned Societies, Dr. Michelson left Washington to renew his studies among the Indians and Eskimos of the James and Hudson Bays region.

The entire fiscal year was spent by Dr. John P. Harrington, ethnologist, in study of the Mission Indians of California, compiling complete notes for the forthcoming edition of the Boscana manuscript of 1882, which tells in 15 chapters of the life and religion of these Indians. This important manuscript of the early Franciscan Father Boscana, a missionary born in Catalonia, Spain, and stationed for years among the Mission Indians, was recently discovered by Dr. Harrington and a literal English translation of it without notes has already been published.

As a byproduct of the preparation of these notes an interesting account of the ethnology of the Mission Indians has been assembled, covering their mode of life, dress, food, sociology, religion, language, and knowledge of nature. The presence of Mission Indians in Washington has constantly enhanced and perfected this work throughout the fiscal year.

At the beginning of the year Dr. F. H. H. Roberts, Jr., archeologist, was engaged in excavations at the Lindenmeier site north of Fort Collins, Colo. This work was continued until September 10. The Lindenmeier site is the location where the first series of stone implements definitely attributable to the Folsom complex, the oldest established horizon in the archeology of North America, was found in the autumn of 1934. The investigations of the 1935 season were a continuation of those begun the preceding fall and consisted of intensive excavation of certain portions of the site. The digging brought forth additional information which makes possible the drawing of more detailed conclusions on the material culture of Folsom man.

When the summer's project was brought to a close Dr. Roberts went to Globe, Ariz., at the request of the authorities at Gila Pueblo, for the purpose of conferring with members of the staff on the finds which they had made at Snaketown, a Hohokam site, near Phoenix. He also studied the collections in the Gila Pueblo Museum and visited the Snaketown site and Casa Grande. The latter was the scene of considerable activity on the part of Cosmos Mindeleff and Dr. J. Walter Fewkes, members of the staff of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 40 and more years ago. Dr. Roberts returned to Washington October 1.

In January he took part, by special invitation, in a symposium on Early Man in America which was held at the annual meeting of the Society of American Naturalists at St. Louis. He also prepared a manuscript detailing the work done during the summer. This report,

Additional Information on the Folsom Complex, Report on the Second Season's Investigations at the Lindenmeier Site in Northern Colorado, was issued on June 30 as Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, vol. 95, no. 10.

Dr. Roberts left Washington June 1 for Anderson, Iowa, to inspect a site where Folsom points and other material had been found. This proved to be a highly interesting place, as it marks the easternmost locality that the true or High Plains form of the Folsom point has been noted. While in Iowa he saw and studied numerous collections of specimens and found evidence of the Folsom complex at a number of sites. From Iowa he proceeded to Colorado, where he resumed excavations at the Lindenmeier site. By the end of the year, June 30, several trenches had been run through portions of the site and an area 20 by 30 feet had been completely cleared of the several feet of accumulated earth which had covered it. This area consisted of an old occupation level upon which the traces of Folsom man and his activities were numerous.

From July 1935 to January 1936 Dr. W. D. Strong, anthropologist, served as consultant in anthropology to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In addition to office work in relation to numerous acculturation studies being made on various Indian reservations of the United States, Dr. Strong made two field trips to various reservations and administrative centers in New Mexico and Arizona in August and December, respectively. In November a trip of several weeks was made to the Chippewa reservations in Minnesota to advise on problems of tribal reorganization. On January 5, 1936, Dr. Strong left Washington for Honduras as leader of a joint archeological expedition from the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, and the Peabody Museum, Harvard University. He was assisted in the field by Alfred Kidder II and Drexel A. Paul, Jr., from the Peabody Museum. Establishing its base at Progreso, in the Ulua Valley, the expedition made stratigraphic excavations at several sites on the Ulua River. In March and April Dr. Strong, with Mr. Paul, conducted excavations around the north end of Lake Yojoa, while Mr. Kidder worked on the Comayagua River. In May and June the entire expedition worked sites on the Chemelicon River, including the site of Naco, first visited by Cortez and the early Spanish Conquistadores.

On the Ulua River excellent stratigraphic series were secured of the prehistoric polychrome pottery horizons. At Playa de los Muertos, on the Ulua, these horizons, corresponding roughly to the close of the Maya Old Empire, were found to overlay a much earlier living level marked by monochrome, polished, and incised pottery.

The work of the expedition approached conclusion in June, and on June 30 preparations for departure began. Throughout its entire work the expedition received cordial cooperation and assistance from

the government of the Republic of Honduras. It was also materially aided by the United Fruit Company, from whose employees it received unlimited hospitality. Without these much appreciated sources of cooperation its scientific results would have been much curtailed.

Dr. Julian H. Steward was appointed as associate anthropologist in the Bureau, effective October 21, 1935. During September 1935, prior to reporting to Washington, Dr. Steward traveled to Pendleton, Oreg., for the purpose of making a selection of 200 negatives of ethnological subjects taken by the late Maj. Lee Morehouse. These were purchased by the Bureau from Mrs. L. L. Cornelison, his daughter. From November 16 to December 10, 1935, Dr. Steward was engaged in conducting a W. P. A. archeological project in the vicinity of Miami, Fla. During this time he supervised the excavation of the large mound at Miami Beach and began work on a smaller mound several miles northwest of the city of Miami. Because of Dr. Strong's departure for Honduras, when Dr. Steward returned to Washington he was delegated to continue the cooperative work between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of American Ethnology previously conducted by Dr. Strong. In connection with these duties Dr. Steward made an extended trip from March 7 to April 15, 1936, in the interest of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. On June 19 he left Washington for the purpose of continuing his field work among the Shoshoni, Bannock, and Gosiute Indians of Utah, Nevada, and Idaho. During the winter and spring Dr. Steward prepared for publication a series of trait lists collected from the Shoshoni Indians of Nevada during the summer of 1935. From other material collected at the same time he completed two articles entitled "Shoshoni Polyandry" and "Panatubiji, a Biography of an Owens Valley Paiute." In addition, Dr. Steward completed for publication in the Smithsonian Annual Report an article entitled "Indian Petroglyphs of the United States."

J. N. B. Hewitt, ethnologist, completed a detailed study of the approximate position and territorial habitat of the northern Iroquoian tribes and of the contiguous Algonquian peoples as they were at the time these groups were first visited by the early explorers. Mr. Hewitt also made a historical study for the purpose of showing the marked influence of the principles and aims of the League of the Five Iroquois Tribes as founded by Deganawida in the early sixteenth century on those of the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. Hewitt had previously recorded from the late Chief J. A. Gibson two Onondaga versions of what is fundamentally a single ritual, namely, the Requickening Address. He made a new translation of these, having first revised both texts so that there should be no material differences in the meaning of the two. He also made a careful revision of the Onondaga texts and laws relating to the posi-

tion and powers and limitations of the Federal Chieftains, and also those governing the Chief Warriors.

He also added to the Bureau's collection of ritual wampum strings by completing two new sets of strings made from loose beads on patterns taken from originals in the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, and a set which was owned by the late Chief David Skye, of the Canadian Six Nations.

During the year Mr. Hewitt continued to represent the Bureau of American Ethnology on the Advisory Committee on Geographic Names, Department of the Interior.

On June 21, 1936, Mr. Hewitt left Washington on field duty, visiting the Tuscarora Reservation near Lewiston, N. Y., and then the Grand River Grant to the Six Nations in Ontario. On the latter reservation he obtained a short Delaware vocabulary and a fine Mohawk text embodying the so-called Handsome Lake Religion, the preparation of which was about completed by the end of the fiscal year.

SPECIAL RESEARCHES

Miss Frances Densmore, a collaborator of the Bureau of American Ethnology, in continuation of her study of Indian music, submitted a manuscript entitled "Dance Songs of the Seminole Indians", with phonograph records and transcriptions of 25 songs. These songs were recorded in February 1932 at Brighton, Fla., by Billie Stewart, one of the best singers in the Cow Creek group of the tribe. Five songs connected with the tribal ball game were presented, together with songs of the alligator, steal-partner, switch-grass, and buffalo dances. The songs of the ball game were sung to bring success and were accompanied by beating on a water-drum hung by a strap from the player's shoulder. A coconut-shell rattle accompanied the dances. All the songs of each series were recorded. This afforded an opportunity to note the maintaining of a fundamental pitch throughout the series, with a pleasing variation of rhythm in the several melodies.

EDITORIAL WORK AND PUBLICATIONS

The editing of the publications of the Bureau was continued through the year by Stanley Searles, editor. In addition to the current work of the office the comprehensive manuscript index of Bulletins 1–100 has been corrected. All entries have been verified.

An index of Schoolcraft's "Indian Tribes", in six volumes, is nearing completion. More than 30,000 entries have been made and are now being alphabetized.

Bulletin 112, "An Introduction to Pawnee Archeology", by Waldo Rudolph Wedel, and Bulletin 113, "The Troyville Mounds, Catahoula Parish, Louisiana", by Winslow M. Walker, were issued.

Work has been done on other manuscripts in the custody of the editor.

Publications distributed totaled 9,337.

LIBRARY

Miss Ella Leary continued in charge as librarian until February 29, 1936, when she was retired on account of ill health. Miss Miriam B. Ketchum was appointed to succeed her, effective April 1, 1936.

The following figures apply to bound books and pamphlets of 100 pages or over. Pamphlets of less than 100 pages are no longer accessioned.

Books received by purchase	18
Books received by exchange	62
Books received by gift	19
Total	99

Numerous pamphlets have been received, as well as the usual periodicals and society transactions, mostly by exchange or gift.

The library contains, as of June 30, 1936:

Total accession record	31,200
Total withdrawals and losses	661
Net total	30,539

There are also about 20,000 pamphlets and more than 3,000 volumes of unbound periodicals and society transactions.

It is planned to reclassify the library according to the Library of Congress scheme of classification, and copies of the scheme in the Bureau's field have been furnished by the Library of Congress. All new material is being put in the new classification, and it is hoped that a real start on older material can be made during the coming year. A shelf list has been begun and will be continued along with the reclassification.

A depository set of Library of Congress catalog cards is being established.

A beginning has been made on refiling the catalog and the task will be completed within the next few months.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Following is a summary of work accomplished by E. G. Cassedy, illustrator:

Graphs	29
Line drawings	163
Maps	12
Photos retouched	10
Tracings	18
Plates assembled	29
Lettering jobs	354
Negatives retouched	6
Photos colored	2
Total	623

COLLECTIONS

Accession number

135,291. Archeological material collected by M. W. Stirling from a village site formerly occupied by the Waccamaw Indians near Myrtle Beach, S. C.

138,344. Two earthenware bowls from the Dragoon Mountains, southeastern Arizona.

138,501. The Mrs. Charles D. Walcott collection of 27 pictures of Navaho sand paintings and four paintings of miscellaneous subjects.

139,472. Ten photographs of Australian natives; 20 lithographs of Congo Negro subjects; 33 slides of subjects from Palestine, Tunis, Syria, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS

During the course of the year information was furnished by members of the Bureau staff in reply to numerous inquiries concerning the North American Indians, both past and present, and the Mexican peoples of the prehistoric and early historic periods. Various specimens sent to the Bureau were identified and data on them furnished for their owners.

Personnel.—Dr. J. H. Steward was appointed associate anthropologist October 21, 1935. Miss Edna Butterbrodt, junior stenographer, resigned January 12, 1936. Miss Helen Heitkemper was appointed January 28, 1936, to fill the vacancy.

Respectfully submitted.

M. W. Stirling, *Chief.*

Dr. C. G. Abbot,
Secretary, Smithsonian Institution.

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